

Education Credits
(Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits)

► See instructions.
► Attach to Form 1040 or Form 1040A.

Caution: You **cannot** take both an education credit and the tuition and fees deduction (Form 1040, line 34, or Form 1040A, line 19) for the **same student** in the same year.

Part I Hope Credit. Caution: You **cannot** take the Hope credit for more than **2** tax years for the **same student**.

1	(a) Student's name (as shown on page 1 of your tax return) First name Last name	(b) Student's social security number (as shown on page 1 of your tax return)	(c) Qualified expenses (see instructions). Do not enter more than \$2,000 for each student.	(d) Enter the smaller of the amount in column (c) or \$1,000	(e) Add column (c) and column (d)	(f) Enter one-half of the amount in column (e)
2	Tentative Hope credit. Add the amounts on line 1, column (f). If you are taking the lifetime learning credit for another student, go to Part II; otherwise, go to Part III ►					2

Part II Lifetime Learning Credit

3	Caution: You cannot take the Hope credit and the lifetime learning credit for the same student in the same year.	(a) Student's name (as shown on page 1 of your tax return) First name Last name	(b) Student's social security number (as shown on page 1 of your tax return)	(c) Qualified expenses (see instructions)
4	Add the amounts on line 3, column (c), and enter the total			4
5	Enter the smaller of line 4 or \$10,000			5
6	Tentative lifetime learning credit. Multiply line 5 by 20% (.20) and go to Part III ►			6

Part III Allowable Education Credits

7	Tentative education credits. Add lines 2 and 6		7	
8	Enter: \$107,000 if married filing jointly; \$53,000 if single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er)	8		
9	Enter the amount from Form 1040, line 38*, or Form 1040A, line 22	9		
10	Subtract line 9 from line 8. If zero or less, stop ; you cannot take any education credits	10		
11	Enter: \$20,000 if married filing jointly; \$10,000 if single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er)	11		
12	If line 10 is equal to or more than line 11, enter the amount from line 7 on line 13 and go to line 14. If line 10 is less than line 11, divide line 10 by line 11. Enter the result as a decimal (rounded to at least three places)		12	×
13	Multiply line 7 by line 12 ►		13	
14	Enter the amount from Form 1040, line 46, or Form 1040A, line 28		14	
15	Enter the total, if any, of your credits from Form 1040, lines 47 through 49, or Form 1040A, lines 29 and 30		15	
16	Subtract line 15 from line 14. If zero or less, stop ; you cannot take any education credits ►		16	
17	Education credits. Enter the smaller of line 13 or line 16 here and on Form 1040, line 50, or Form 1040A, line 31 ►		17	

* If you are filing Form 2555, 2555-EZ, or 4563, or you are excluding income from Puerto Rico, see Pub. 970 for the amount to enter.

General Instructions

What's New

Change to computation of Hope Credit. To simplify Part I, the order of the operations in computing the Hope credit has been changed. See *Specific Instructions, Part I*, and follow the instructions to correctly figure the Hope credit.

Purpose of Form

Use Form 8863 to figure and claim your education credits. The education credits are:

- The Hope credit, and
- The lifetime learning credit.

Who Can Take the Credits

You may be able to take the credits if you, your spouse, or a dependent you claim on your tax return was a student enrolled at or attending an eligible educational institution. The credits are based on the amount of qualified education expenses paid for the student in 2005 for academic periods beginning in 2005 and the first 3 months of 2006.



Qualified education expenses must be reduced by any expenses paid directly or indirectly using tax-free educational assistance. See Tax-Free Educational Assistance and Refunds of Qualified Education Expenses on this page.

Note. If a student is claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return, only the person who claims the student as a dependent can claim the credits for the student's qualified education expenses. If a student is not claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return, only the student can claim the credits.

Generally, qualified education expenses paid on behalf of the student by someone other than the student (such as a relative) are treated as paid by the student. Also, qualified education expenses paid (or treated as paid) by a student who is claimed as a dependent on your tax return are treated as paid by you. Therefore, you are treated as having paid expenses that were paid from your dependent student's earnings, gifts, inheritances, savings, etc.

You cannot take the education credits if any of the following apply.

- You are claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return, such as your parent's return (but see the *Note* above).
- Your filing status is married filing separately.
- Your adjusted gross income on Form 1040, line 38, or Form 1040A, line 22, is (a) \$107,000 or more if married filing jointly, or (b) \$53,000 or more if single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er).
- You are taking a deduction for tuition and fees on Form 1040, line 34, or Form 1040A, line 19, for the same student.
- You (or your spouse) were a nonresident alien for any part of 2005 and the nonresident alien did not elect to be treated as a resident alien.

Additional Information

See Pub. 970, Tax Benefits for Education, for more information about these credits.

Rules That Apply to Both Credits

Qualified Education Expenses

Generally, qualified education expenses are amounts paid in 2005 for tuition and fees required for the student's enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution. It does not matter whether the expenses were paid in cash, by check, by credit card, or with borrowed funds.

Qualified education expenses do not include amounts paid for:

- Room and board, insurance, medical expenses (including student health fees), transportation, or other similar personal, living, or family expenses.
- Course-related books, supplies, equipment, and nonacademic activities, except for fees required to be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance.
- Any course or other education involving sports, games, or hobbies, or any noncredit course, unless such course or other education is part of the student's degree program or (for the lifetime learning credit only) helps the student to acquire or improve job skills.

If you or the student take a deduction for higher education expenses, such as on Schedule A or Schedule C (Form 1040), you cannot use those expenses when figuring your education credits.



Any qualified expenses used to figure the education credits cannot be taken into account in determining the amount of a distribution from a Coverdell ESA or a qualified tuition program that is excluded from gross income.

Tax-Free Educational Assistance and Refunds of Qualified Education Expenses

Tax-free educational assistance includes a tax-free scholarship or Pell grant or tax-free employer-provided educational assistance. See Pub. 970 for specific information.

You must reduce the total of your qualified education expenses by any tax-free educational assistance and by any refunds of your expenses. If the refund or tax-free assistance is received in the same year in which the expenses were paid or in the following year before you file your tax return, reduce your qualified education expenses by the amount received and figure your education credits using the reduced amount of qualified expenses. If the refund or tax-free assistance is received after you file your return for the year in which the expenses were paid, you must figure the amount by which your education credits would have been reduced if the refund or tax-free assistance had been received in the year for which you claimed the education credits. Include that amount as an additional tax for the year the refund or tax-free assistance was received on the tax line of your 2005 tax return (Form 1040, line 44, or Form 1040A, line 28). Enter the amount and "ECR" next to that line.

Example. You paid \$8,000 tuition and fees in December 2004, and your child began college in January 2005. You filed your 2004 tax return on February 2, 2005, and claimed a lifetime learning credit of \$1,600. After you filed your return, your child dropped two courses and you received a refund of \$1,400. You must refigure your 2004 lifetime learning credit using \$6,600 of qualified expenses instead of \$8,000. The refigured credit is \$1,320. You must include the difference of \$280 on your 2005 Form 1040, line 44, or Form 1040A, line 28.

Prepaid Expenses

Qualified education expenses paid in 2005 for an academic period that begins in the first 3 months of 2006 can be used in figuring your 2005 education credits. For example, if you pay \$2,000 in December 2005 for qualified tuition for the 2006 winter quarter that begins in January 2006, you can use that \$2,000 in figuring your 2005 education credits (if you meet all the other requirements).



You cannot use any amount paid in 2004 or 2006 to figure your 2005 education credits.

Eligible Educational Institution

An eligible educational institution is generally any accredited public, nonprofit, or proprietary (private) college, university, vocational school, or other postsecondary institution. Also, the institution must be eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the Department of Education. Virtually all accredited postsecondary institutions meet this definition.

Specific Instructions

Part I Hope Credit

You may be able to take a credit of up to \$1,500 for qualified education expenses (defined earlier) paid for each student who qualifies for the Hope credit. You can take the Hope credit for a student if all of the following apply.

- As of the beginning of 2005, the student had not completed the first 2 years of postsecondary education (generally, the freshman and sophomore years of college), as determined by the eligible educational institution. For this purpose, do not include academic credit awarded solely because of the student's performance on proficiency examinations.
- The student was enrolled in 2005 in a program that leads to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential.
- The student was taking at least one-half the normal full-time workload for his or her course of study for at least one academic period beginning in 2005.
- The Hope credit was not claimed for that student's expenses in more than one prior tax year.
- The student has not been convicted of a felony for possessing or distributing a controlled substance.



If a student does not meet all of the above conditions, you may be able to take the lifetime learning credit for part or all of that student's qualified education expenses instead.

Line 1

Complete columns (a) through (f) on line 1 for each student who qualifies for and for whom you elect to take the Hope credit.

Note. If you have more than three students who qualify for the Hope credit, enter "See attached" next to line 1 and attach a statement with the required information for each additional student. Include the amounts from line 1, column (f), for all students in the total you enter on line 2.

Column (c)

For each student, enter the amount of qualified education expenses remaining after reduction by certain tax-free amounts and refunds, as explained earlier. The expenses must have been paid for the student in 2005 for academic periods beginning after 2004 but before April 1, 2006, as explained under *Prepaid Expenses*. If the student's expenses are more than \$2,000, enter \$2,000. You may use the worksheet on this page to figure the correct amount to enter in column (c).

Qualified Education Expenses Worksheet

(Do a separate worksheet for each student)

1. Total qualified education expenses _____
2. Less adjustments:
 - a. Tax-free educational assistance _____
 - b. Refunds of qualified education expenses _____
 - c. Other adjustments (see Pub. 970) _____
3. Total adjustments (add lines 2a-2c) _____
4. Qualified education expenses
(subtract line 3 from line 1 (enter on Form 8863, Part I or II, column (c))) _____

Part II Lifetime Learning Credit

The maximum lifetime learning credit for 2005 is \$2,000, regardless of the number of students.



You cannot take the lifetime learning credit for any student for whom you are taking the Hope credit.

Line 3

Complete columns (a) through (c) for each student for whom you are taking the lifetime learning credit.

Note. If you are taking the lifetime learning credit for more than three students, enter "See attached" next to line 3 and attach a statement with the required information for each additional student. Include the amounts from line 3, column (c), for all students in the total you enter on line 4.

Column (c)

For each student, enter the amount of qualified education expenses remaining after reduction by certain tax-free amounts and refunds, as explained earlier. The expenses must have been paid for the student in 2005 for academic periods beginning after 2004 but before April 1, 2006, as explained under *Prepaid Expenses*. You may use the worksheet on this page to figure the correct amount to enter in column (c).

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Internal Revenue Code section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is: **Recordkeeping**, 12 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 8 min.; **Preparing the form**, 32 min.; **Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS**, 33 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the Instructions for Form 1040 or Form 1040A.

